

## Message Text

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C O N F I D E N T I A L USNATO 4308

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, NATO, MNUC, NPG

SUBJECT: NPG-PRELIMINARY VIEWS ON FALL NPG MINISTERIAL AGENDA

REF: USNATO 4136

SUMMARY: IN PLANNING FOR THE HAMBURG NPG MEETING, WE BELIVE US SHOULD WORK TOWARD STRONG FOLLOW-UP TO SECRETARY SCHLESINGER'S REMARKS AT MONTEREY ON GETTING NPG FOCUSED ON CONCRETE ISSUES OF FORCE POSTURE AND DOCTRINE. WE SEE THREE GENERAL AGENDA ITEM HEADINGS AROUND WHICH TO BULD A PRODUCTIVE MEETING:

-NUCLEAR EMPLOYMENT POLICY:

-FORCE POSTURE ISSUES:

-NPG ORGANIZATION AND PROCEDURES:

FIRST TWO HEADINGS PROVIDE BASIS FOR INCREASING MINISTERIAL UNDERSTANDING AND SUPPORT FOR BROAD US OBJECTIVES FOR THEATER NUCLEAR FORCES. THE THIRD, CONCERNING WHICH WE ARE PROVIDING VIEWS SEPTTEL, PROVIDES BASIS FOR FOSTERING MINISTEIAL DISCUSSION OF WAYS TO STRENGTHEN THE NPG AND FOR PRESENTING US PROPOSALS. END SUMMARY.

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1. WITH THE RESUMPTION OF REGULAR NPG STAFF GROUP MEETINGS ON AUGUST 18, AND CONTINUING INTO SEPTEMBER, OUR ALIIES WIL BE LOOKING PRIMARILY TO THE US FOR DIRECTION IN SHAPING THE AGENDA FOR THE HAMBURG NPG MEETING. WE BELIEVE WE SHOULD

TAKE THE LEAD IN DEVELOPING ALLIED SUPPORT FOR AN AGENDA THAT WILL CENTER ON ISSUES OF KEY INTEREST TO MINISTERS AND THAT WILL ADVANCE US OBJECTIVES FOR THEATER NUCLEAR FORCES. WE DISCUSS BELOW THREE GENERAL AGENDA HEADINGS FOR THE MEETING WHICH WE BELIEVE WOULD SERVE THESE PURPOSES.

2. NUCLEAR EMPLOYMENT POLICY. THERE ARE THREE PAPERS/TOPICS THAT COULD FIT NICELY UNDER THIS GENERAL HEADING: THE US NUWEP'S PAPER, THE PERMREPS REPORT ON INITIATION OF PHASE III, AND ALLIED INTEREST IN SELECTIVE EMPLOYMENT PLANNING (SEP). RATHER THAN SPIN OFF THESE PAPERS/TOPICS AS SEPARATE AGENDA ITEMS, WE SEE VALUE IN FOSTERING THEIR DISCUSSION UNDER ONE HEADING SO THAT THEIR ESSENTIALLY INTERRELATED FEATURES IN OVERALL ALLIANCE STRATEGY CAN BE BETTER APPRECIATED. AS PRIMARY STIMULUS TO CONSTRUCTIVE DISCUSSION, SECRETARY SCHLESINGER COULD DELIVER REMARKS THAT EXPLAIN IN CONCRETE TERMS THE DOCTRINAL FUNDAMENTALS CONTAINED IN THE US NUWEP'S PAPER AND THE US VIEWS ON OBJECTIVES FOR PHASE III. IN THIS CONTEXT, SACEUR COULD OFFER REMARKS ON SHAPE'S WORK ON SEP'S AND ITS PLACE IN OVERALL EMPLOYMENT PLANNING PROCESS. PRINCIPAL US OBJECTIVE IN THESE DISCUSSIONS SHOULD BE TO LAY GROUND WORK FOR MINISTERIAL UNDERSTANDING OF WORK TO BE ACCOMPLISHED IN PHASE III.

3. FORCE POSTURE ISSUES. MISSION PROVIDED VIEWS IN RETEL ON NEED TO CONVEY TO ALLIES A CAREFUL, ELEMENTARY, AND COHESIVE EXPLANATION OF OVERALL THEATER NUCLEAR FORCE STRUCTURE CHARACTERISTICS THAT WE WISH TO ACHIEVE IN NATO. IN ADDITION TO UNDERTAKING THIS STEP WITH PERMREPS AND IN BILATERALS WITH KEY ALLIES THIS FALL, WE BELIEVE A SIMILAR EXPLANATION SHOULD BE PROVIDED TO MINISTERS IN HAMBURG TO PROVIDE THE BASIS FOR AN ENLARGED DIALOGUE REGARDING SPECIFIC FORCE POSTURE CHANGES. HAVING DEVELOPED A BETTER UNDERSTANDING OF DESIRED FORCE POSTURE CHARACTERISTICS, WE SEE AS PRINCIPAL US OBJECTIVE IN THESE DISCUSSIONS PRELIMINARY MINISTERIAL AGREEMENT ON BROAD DIRECTION FOR FORCE POSTURE CHANGES, AND PERHAPS SOME TASKING FOR ACTIONS ON ONE OR TWO SPECIFIC CHANGES.

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4. MPG ORGANIZATION AND PROCEDURES. AS INDICATED IN VIWS PROVIDED SEPTEL, WE SEE HAMBURG MEETING AS GOOD OPPORTUNITY FOR MINISTERS TO DO SOME STOCK-TAKING ON THE NPG AND CONSIDER PROPOSALS FOR WAYS TO FURTHER STRENGTHEN THIS KEY NATO CONSULTATIVE BODY. THIS WOULD REQUIRE IN THE FIRST INSTANCE INTER-AGENCY REVIEW AND AGREEMENT ON PROPOSALS THE US WOULD WISH TO MAKE, AND THEREAFTER SOME CAREFUL STAGING, TO INCLUDE SOME PREPARATORY BILATERAL EXCHANGES. MOD LEBER'S PROPOSAL ON CHANGE IN NPG MEETING LOCATIONS, AND SECRETARY SCHLESINGER'S SUGGESTION ON REGIONAL SUB-GROUPS, PROVIDE THE CORE AROUND WHICH TO BUILD SUCH AN AGENDA ITEM; ITS ULTIMATE SCOPE WOULD DEPEND LARGELY ON THE RANGE OF PROPOSALS THE US WOULD BE PREPARED TO MAKE. VALUE WE SEE IN AN AGENDA ITEM IS THIS

KIND IS OPPORTUNITY TO DIRECTLY SOLICIT ALLIED MINISTERIAL  
VIEWS AND TO GET SOME PROPOSALS ON THE TALBE FOR CONSIDERATION  
AND SUBSEQUENT DECISION. BASIC US OBJECTIVE SHOULD BE TO GIVE  
THE NPG NEW IMPETUS BY MAKING ORGANIZATION MORE RESPONSIVE  
TO MINISTEIAL INTERESTS, AND GETTING IT FOCUSED ON CONCRETE, REAL  
WORLD ISSUES.

5. WE WOULD APPRECIATE WASHINGTON VIEWS ON PRELIMINARY  
SUGGESTIONS FOR FALL NPG AGENDA PROVIDED ABOVE, AND GUIDANCE FOR  
DISCUSSIONS WITH OUR ALLIES ON THIS SUBJECT.

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